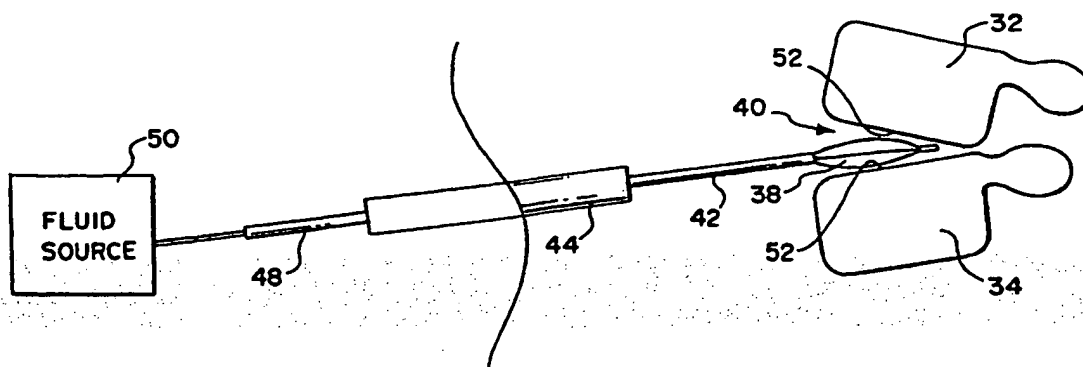




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : <b>A61B 17/56</b>	<b>A1</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 99/29246</b> (43) International Publication Date: 17 June 1999 (17.06.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/25940 (22) International Filing Date: 7 December 1998 (07.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/986,876 8 December 1997 (08.12.97) US (71) Applicant: KYPHON INC. [US/US]; 3110 Coronado Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95054 (US). (72) Inventors: REILEY, Mark, A.; 304 Pala Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611 (US). SCHOLTEN, Arie; 4175 Tamayo Street, Fremont, CA 94536 (US). TALMADGE, Karen, D.; 2320 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 (US). (74) Agent: RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.; 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  Published With international search report.

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING EXPANDABLE BODIES TO PUSH APART CORTICAL BONE SURFACES



## (57) Abstract

This invention is systems, and methods to insert an expandable body (20) in a collapsed configuration into a space defined between cortical bone surfaces. The space can, e.g., comprise a fracture or an intervertebral space. The systems, and methods cause expansion of the expandable body within the space, thereby pushing apart the cortical bone surfaces (18) to, e.g., reduce the fracture or push apart adjacent vertebral bodies as part of a therapeutic procedure.



**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						



**SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING EXPANDABLE BODIES TO  
PUSH APART CORTICAL BONE SURFACES**

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

5 This application is a continuation-in-part  
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/871,114,  
filed June 9, 1997 and entitled "Systems and Methods  
for Treatment of Fractured or Diseased Bone Using  
Expandable Bodies," which is a continuation-in-part  
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/659,678,  
10 filed June 5, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part  
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/485,394,  
filed June 7, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part  
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/188,224,  
filed January 26, 1994 entitled, "Improved  
15 Inflatable Device For Use In Surgical Protocol  
Relating To Fixation Of Bone."

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to the treatment of  
bone conditions in humans and other animals.

20 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

There are 2 million fractures each year in  
the United States. There are also other bone  
diseases involving infected bone, poorly healing  
bone, or bone fractured by severe trauma. These  
25 conditions, if not successfully treated, can result

in deformities, chronic complications, and an overall adverse impact upon the quality of life.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention provides improved systems and methods for treating bone using one or more expandable bodies. The systems and methods insert an expandable body in a collapsed configuration into a space defined between cortical bone surfaces. The space can, e.g., comprise a fracture or an  
10 intervertebral space left after removal of the disk between two vertebral bodies. The systems and methods cause expansion of the expandable body within the space, thereby pushing apart the cortical bone surfaces. The expansion of the body serves,  
15 e.g., to reduce the fracture or to push apart adjacent vertebral bodies as part of a therapeutic procedure, so that healing can occur without deformity.

Features and advantages of the inventions  
20 are set forth in the following Description and Drawings, as well as in the appended Claims.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a lateral view of a portion of a distal radius and humerus adjoining at the elbow in  
25 their normal anatomic condition;

Fig. 2 is a lateral view of the distal radius and humerus shown in Fig. 1, except that the distal radius includes a fracture along which facing cortical bone surfaces have collapsed, creating a  
30 deformed condition;

Fig. 3 shows a lateral view of the distal radius and humerus shown in Fig. 2, with an expandable body deployed in a collapsed geometry between the collapsed cortical bone surfaces;

35 Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the

deployment of the expandable body deployed between the collapsed cortical bone surfaces as shown in Fig. 3;

5 Fig. 5 shows a view of the distal radius and humerus shown in Fig. 3, with the expandable body expanded to exert pressure against the collapsed cortical bone surfaces, pushing them apart to restore a normal anatomic condition, so that the distal radius can heal without deformity;

10 Fig. 6 is an enlarged view of the expanded body pushing the cortical bone surfaces apart, as shown in Fig. 5;

15 Fig. 7 is a lateral view of two vertebral bodies and intervertebral disk in their normal anatomic condition;

20 Fig. 8 is a view of the two vertebral bodies shown in Fig. 7, except that the intervertebral disk has been removed and the vertebral bodies have shifted out of normal orientation, creating a deformed condition;

Fig. 9 shows a view of the vertebral bodies shown in Fig. 8, with an expandable body deployed in a collapsed geometry between the facing cortical bone surfaces between the vertebral bodies;

25 Fig. 10 shows a view of the vertebral bodies shown in Fig. 9, with the expandable body expanded to exert pressure against the facing cortical bone surfaces, pushing the vertebral bodies apart to restore a normal anatomic condition, which can be healed without deformity; and

30

Fig. 11 shows a view of the vertebral bodies shown in Fig. 9, with two expandable bodies deployed in the intervertebral space to exert pressure to push the vertebral bodies apart to promote healing without deformity.

35

The invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The scope of the invention is defined in the appended claims, rather than in the specific description preceding them. All embodiments that fall within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced by the claims.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The use of expandable bodies to treat bones is disclosed in United States Patent Numbers 4,969,888 and 5,108,404. The systems and methods disclosed in these patents treat bone from the inside out. That is, the systems and methods deploy an expandable body into the interior volume of the bone. Expansion of the body inside the bone compacts or compresses surrounding cancellous bone. The compaction of cancellous bone inside the bone exerts interior force upon outside cortical bone, making it possible to elevate or push broken and compressed cortical bone back to or near its original prefracture position.

There are times, however, when fracture reduction is indicated by applying external pressure directly on cortical bone surfaces. Figs. 1 and 2 exemplify one representative circumstance.

Fig. 1 shows a normal human distal radius 10, near the elbow joint 12, where the radius 10 adjoins the humerus 14. Fig. 2 shows a fracture 16 in the distal radius 10. The fracture 16 can be caused by bone disease or trauma. As Fig. 2 shows, cortical bone surfaces 18 surrounding the fracture 16 have collapsed upon themselves, moving the radius 10 out of normal alignment with the humerus 14. It is not desirable to allow the cortical bone surfaces



18 to heal or fuse in a collapsed condition, as deformity and discomfort can result.

According to the invention (as Figs. 3 and 4 show), an expandable body 20 is positioned in the fracture between the facing cortical bone surfaces 18. Figs. 3 and 4 show the expandable body 20 in a collapsed condition, which aids its deployment and placement in the fracture 16.

Access can be achieved either with a closed, minimally invasive procedure or with an open procedure. Fig. 3 shows the expandable body 20 carried at the distal end of a catheter tube 22. The catheter tube 22 is introduced through conventional percutaneous deployment through a guide tube or cannula 24, under radiologic or CT monitoring.

The materials for the catheter tube 22 are selected to facilitate advancement of the body 20 into position against the cortical bone surfaces 18 through the cannula 24. The catheter tube 22 can be constructed, for example, using standard flexible, medical grade plastic materials, like vinyl, nylon, polyethylenes, ionomer, polyurethane, and polyethylene tetrphthalate (PET). The catheter tube 22 can also include more rigid materials to impart greater stiffness and thereby aid in its manipulation. More rigid materials that can be used for this purpose include Kevlar™ material, PEBAX™ material, stainless steel, nickel-titanium alloys (Nitinol™ material), and other metal alloys.

The body 20 is caused to assume an expanded geometry within the fracture 16, which is shown in Figs. 5 and 6. To provide expansion of the body 20, the catheter tube 22 includes an interior lumen 28. The lumen 22 is coupled at the proximal end of the

catheter tube 22 to a source of fluid 30. The fluid 30 is preferably radio-opaque to facilitate visualization. For example, Renograffin™ can be used for this purpose.

5           The lumen 28 conveys the fluid 30 into the body 20. As fluid 30 enters the body 20, the body 20 expands, as Figs. 5 and 6 show. Because the fluid 30 is radio-opaque, body expansion can be monitored fluoroscopically or under CT visualization. Using  
10       real time MRI, the body 20 may be filled with sterile water, saline solution, or sugar solution.

          Expansion of the body 20 exerts pressure directly against surrounding the cortical bone surfaces 18. The pressure exerted by expanding body  
15       20 moves surrounding the cortical bone surfaces 18 apart at the fracture 16. The exerted pressure lifts surrounding cortical bone surfaces 18 at the fracture 16 (shown by arrow 26 in Fig. 6) out of the deformed, collapsed condition, back to or near the  
20       original prefracture position. The expandable body 20 thereby realigns the cortical bone surfaces 18 at the fracture 16 by the application of direct external pressure, e.g., to allow the bone to heal at or near its anatomic normal orientation by the  
25       application of conventional exterior casting or other conventional interior or exterior fixation devices.

          Figs. 7 and 8 exemplify another circumstance where force applied by an expandable  
30       body directly against facing cortical bone surfaces may be indicated for therapeutic purposes. Fig. 7 shows two adjacent vertebral bodies 32 and 34, separated by a healthy intervertebral disk 36 in a normally aligned condition. Fig. 8 shows the  
35       adjacent vertebral bodies 32 and 34 after disease or

injury has necessitated the removal of the intervertebral disk 36. The absence of the disk 36 in Fig. 8 has caused the vertebral bodies to shift out of normal alignment into a deformed orientation.

5           As Fig. 9 shows, an expandable body 38 has been positioned between the vertebral bodies 32 and 34, in the space 40 the disk 36 once occupied. Fig. 9 shows the deployment of the expandable body 38 at the distal end of a catheter tube 42, through a  
10           cannula 44, under radiologic or CT monitoring. As before stated, access can be achieved either with a closed, minimally invasive procedure (as Fig. 9 contemplates) or with an open procedure.

          The catheter tube 42 includes an interior  
15           lumen 48, which is coupled at the proximal end of the catheter tube 42 to a source of fluid 50 (which is preferably radio-opaque, such as Renograffin™). The lumen 48 conveys the fluid 50 into the body 38 to cause it to expand. As Fig. 10 shows, expansion  
20           of the body 38 exerts pressure directly against the facing cortical bone surfaces 52 of the two vertebral bodies 32 and 34. The pressure exerted by the body 38 moves the cortical bone surfaces 52 apart about the intervertebral space 40, as shown by  
25           arrows 46 in Fig. 10. The pressure exerted against the cortical bone surfaces 52 lifts the vertebral bodies 32 and 34 out of the deformed condition, back to or near their original position. The direct pressure exerted by the body 38 on the cortical bone  
30           surfaces 52 pushes the vertebral bodies 32 and 34 apart to allow placement of a disk prosthesis, or medication, or to allow fusion to occur without deformity by the application of conventional interior or exterior fixation devices.

35           It should be appreciated that, in the

embodiments shown, the use of more than one expandable body 20 or 38 may be indicated to move the targeted surfaces of cortical bone apart. For example, as Fig. 11 shows, a second expandable body 54 has been positioned in the space 40 with the first mentioned expandable body 38. The second expandable body 54 can be carried by the same catheter tube 42 as the first expandable body 38, or it can be carried by a separate catheter tube (not shown). A lumen 56 conveys the fluid 50 into the second expandable body 54, causing it to expand, in the same way that the first expandable body 38 expands in the space 40. As Fig. 11 shows, joint expansion of the bodies 38 and 54 in the space 40 exerts pressure against the facing cortical bone surfaces 52 of the two vertebral bodies 32 and 34. The pressure exerted by the two bodies 38 and 54 moves the cortical bone surfaces 52 apart about the intervertebral space 40, as shown by arrows 58 in Fig. 11. The pressure exerted by the two expandable bodies 38 and 54 lifts the vertebral bodies 32 and 34 out of the deformed condition, back to or near their original position, to allow placement of a disk prosthesis, or medication, or to allow fusion to occur without deformity by the application of conventional interior or exterior fixation devices.

The material of the expandable body or bodies used can be selected according to the therapeutic objectives surrounding its use. For example, materials including vinyl, nylon, polyethylenes, ionomer, polyurethane, and polyethylene tetrathalate (PET) can be used. The thickness of the body wall 58 is typically in the range of 2/1000ths to 25/1000ths of an inch, or other thicknesses that can withstand pressures of up

to, for example, 250-500 psi.

If desired, the material for the expandable body or bodies can be selected to exhibit generally elastic properties, like latex. Alternatively, the material can be selected to exhibit less elastic properties, like silicone. Using expandable bodies with generally elastic or generally semi-elastic properties, the physician monitors the expansion to assure that over-expansion and body failure do not occur. Furthermore, expandable bodies with generally elastic or generally semi-elastic properties may require some form of external or internal restraints. For example, the material for the body can be selected to exhibit more inelastic properties, to limit expansion of the wall 58 prior to wall failure. The body can also include one or more restraining materials, particularly when the body is itself made from more elastic materials. The restraints, made from flexible, inelastic high tensile strength materials, limit expansion of the body prior to failure.

When relatively inelastic materials are used for the body, or when the body is otherwise externally restrained to limit its expansion prior to failure, a predetermined shape and size can be imparted to the body, when it is substantially expanded. The shape and size can be predetermined according to the shape and size of the surrounding cortical bone. The shape of the surrounding cortical bone and the presence of surrounding local anatomic structures are generally understood by medical professionals using textbooks of human skeletal anatomy, along with their knowledge of the site and its disease or injury. The physician is also able to select the materials and geometry desired for the

body based upon prior analysis of the morphology of the targeted bone using, for example, plain films, spinous process percussion, or MRI or CRT scanning. The objective is to push cortical bone surfaces  
5 apart to meet the therapeutic objectives without harm. By definition, harm results when expansion of the body results in a worsening of the overall condition of the bone and surrounding anatomic structures, for example, by injury to surrounding  
10 tissue or causing a permanent adverse change in bone biomechanics.

It should be appreciated that expandable bodies as described possess the important attribute of being able to push apart cortical bone in  
15 fractured or deformed bone structures, back to or near normal anatomic position. This attribute makes these expandable bodies well suited for the successful treatment of fractures or deformities in the spine, as well as throughout the appendicular  
20 skeleton, such as the distal radius, the proximal humerus, the tibial plateau, the femoral head, hip, and calcaneus.

The features of the invention are set forth in the following claims.

## CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A system adapted for pushing apart cortical bone surfaces comprising  
an expandable body having a collapsed configuration for insertion into a space defined  
5 between cortical bone surfaces, the expandable body capable of being expanded in response to interior fluid pressure, and  
a passage communicating with the expandable body and with a source of fluid to convey fluid to  
10 cause expansion of the expandable body within the space, thereby pushing apart the cortical bone surfaces.
2. A system according to claim 1 and further including a catheter tube having a distal end, and  
wherein the expandable body is carried by  
5 the distal end of the catheter tube.
3. A system according to claim 2 wherein the passage comprises a lumen in the catheter tube.
4. A system according to claim 2 and further including a cannula to guide the catheter tube toward the space.
5. A system according to claim 1 wherein the body includes an essentially non-elastic material.
6. A system according to claim 1 wherein the body includes an essentially semi-elastic material.
7. A system according to claim 1 wherein the body includes an essentially elastic material.
8. A system according to claim 1

- 12 -

wherein the body include including material that limits expansion of the body.

9. A system according to claim 1 and further including

5 a second expandable body having a collapsed configuration for insertion into the space with the first defined expandable body, the second expandable body also being capable of expansion in response to interior fluid pressure, and

10 a passage communicating with the second expandable body and with a source of fluid to convey fluid to cause expansion of the second expandable body within the space, whereby the first and second expandable bodies push apart the cortical bone surfaces.

10. A method for pushing apart cortical bone surfaces comprising the steps of

5 inserting an expandable body in a collapsed condition into a space defined between cortical bone surfaces, and

expanding the expandable body within the space to push apart the cortical bone surfaces.

11. A method according to claim 10

and further including the step of inserting a second expandable body in a collapsed condition into the space, and

5 expanding the first and second expandable bodies within the space to push apart the cortical bone surfaces.

12. A method for pushing apart adjacent vertebral bodies comprising the steps of

5 inserting an expandable body in a collapsed condition into an intervertebral space defined between adjacent vertebral bodies, and

expanding the expandable body within the



intervertebral space to push apart the adjacent vertebral bodies.

13. A method according to claim 12 and further including the step of inserting a second expandable body in a collapsed condition into the intervertebral space, and

5 expanding the first and second expandable bodies within the intervertebral space to push apart the adjacent vertebral bodies.

14. A method for reducing a fracture between cortical bone surfaces comprising the steps of

5 inserting an expandable body in a collapsed condition into the fracture, and

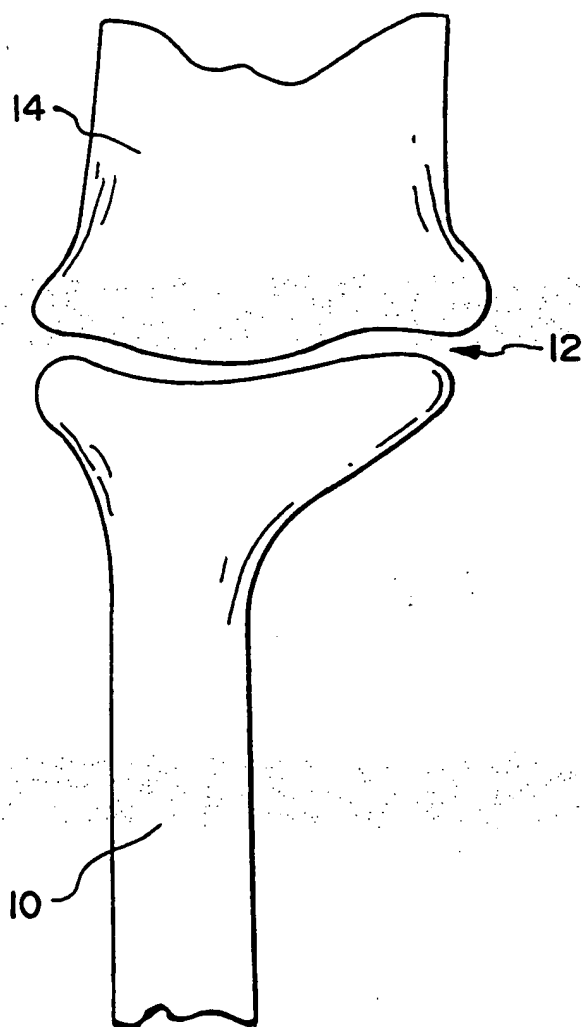
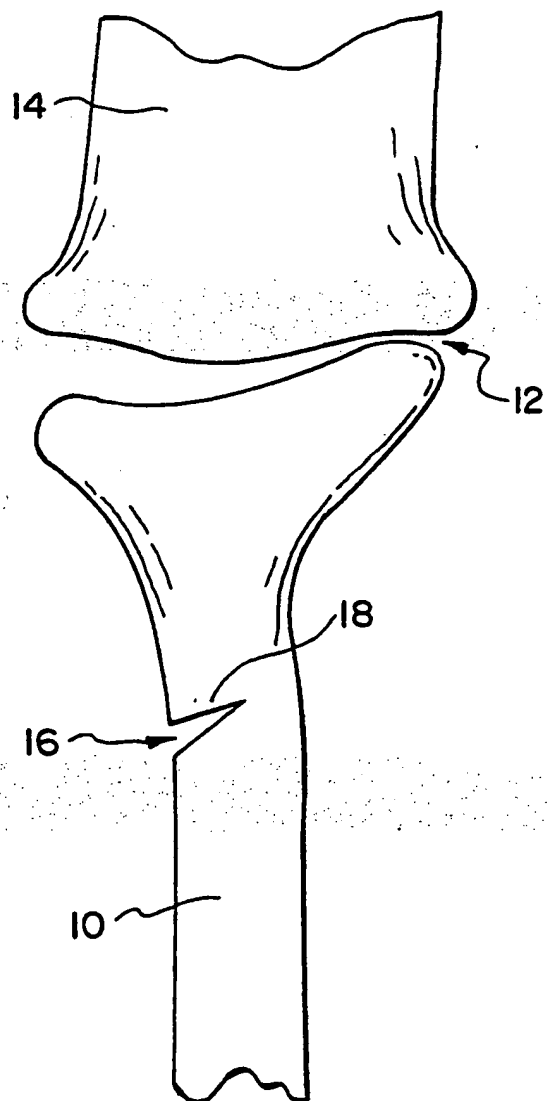
expanding the expandable body within the fracture to push apart the cortical bone surfaces.

15. A method according to claim 14

and further including the step of inserting a second expandable body in a collapsed condition into the fracture, and

5 expanding the first and second expandable bodies within the fracture to push apart the cortical bone surfaces.

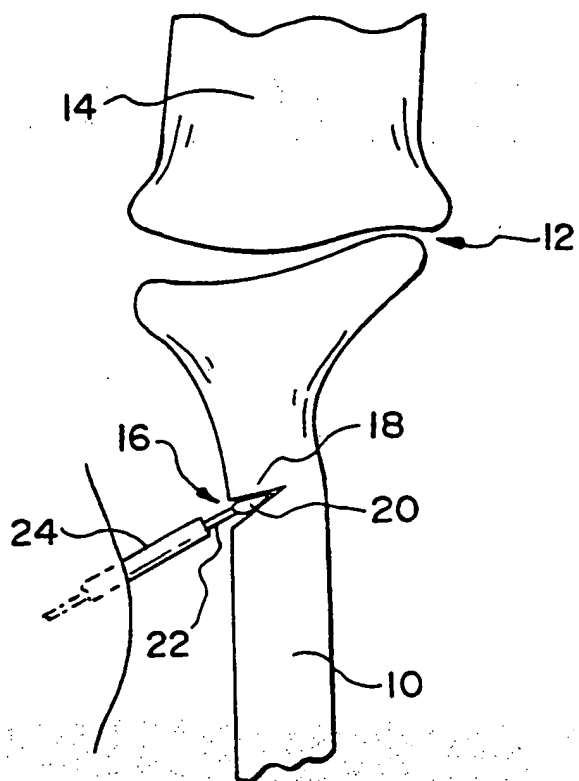
***This Page Blank (uspto)***

**FIG. 1****FIG. 2**

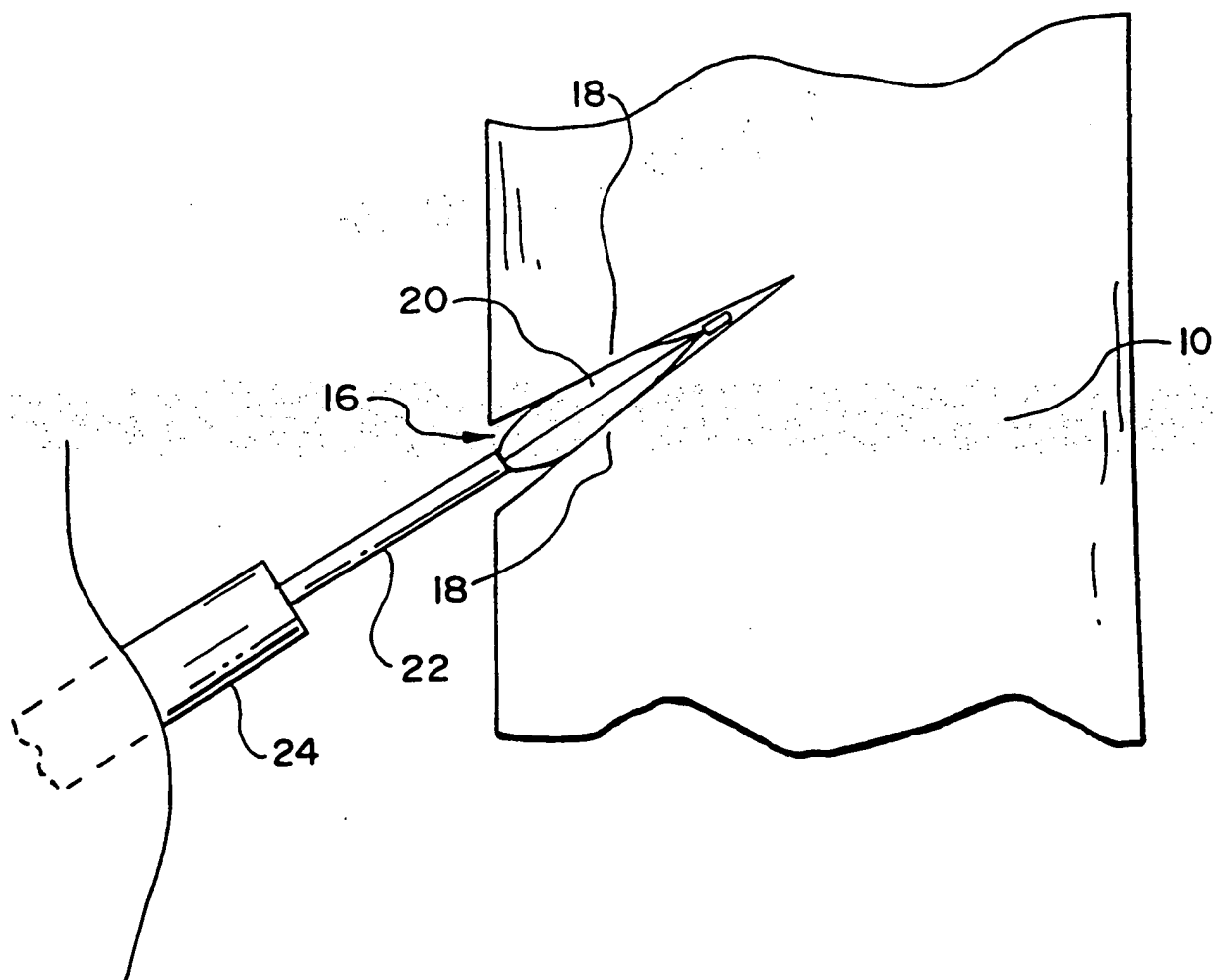
***This Page Blank (uspto)***

**FIG. 3**

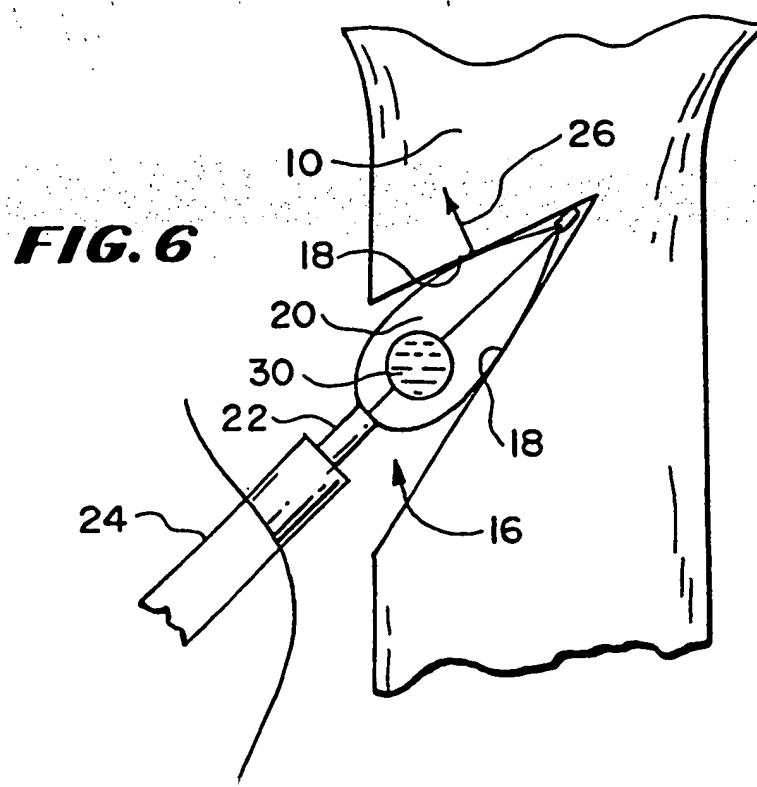
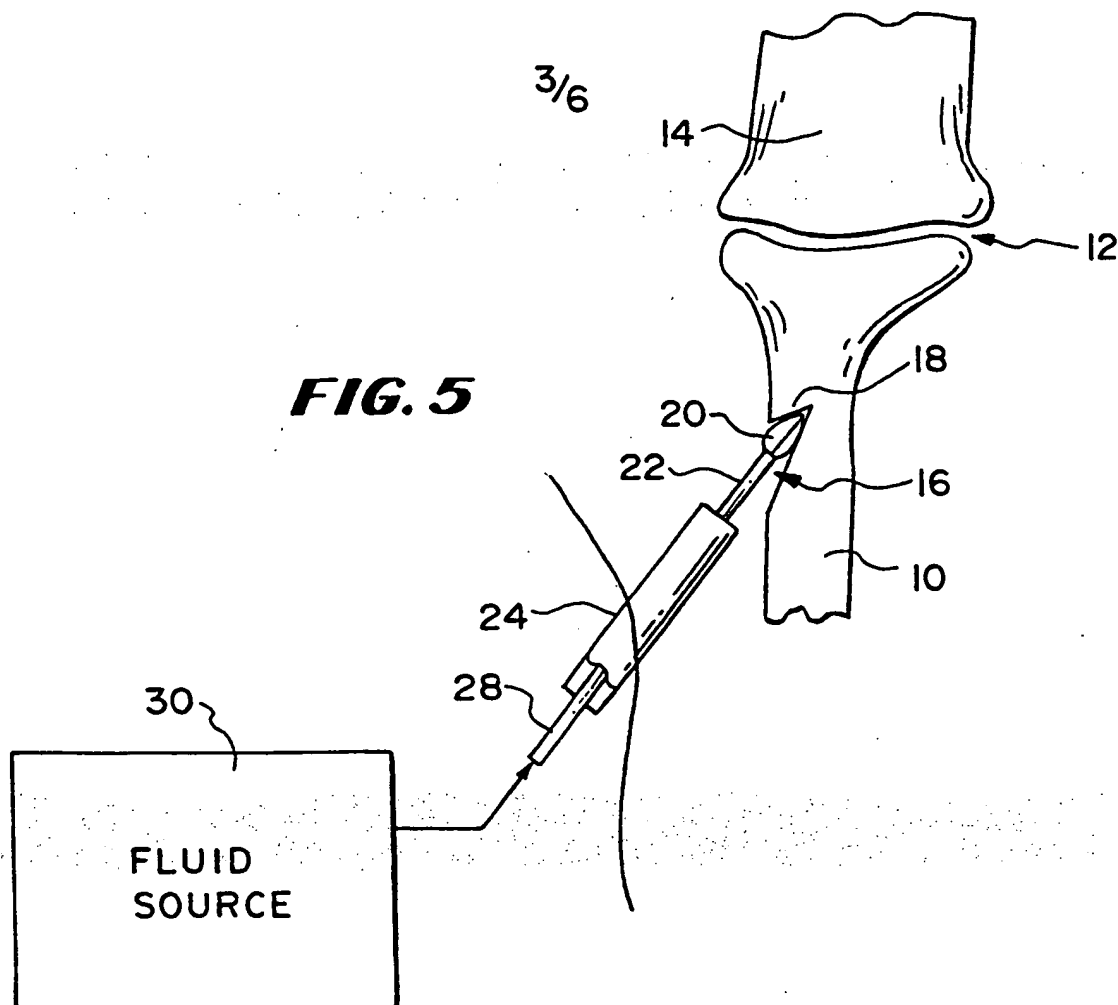
2/6



**FIG. 4**



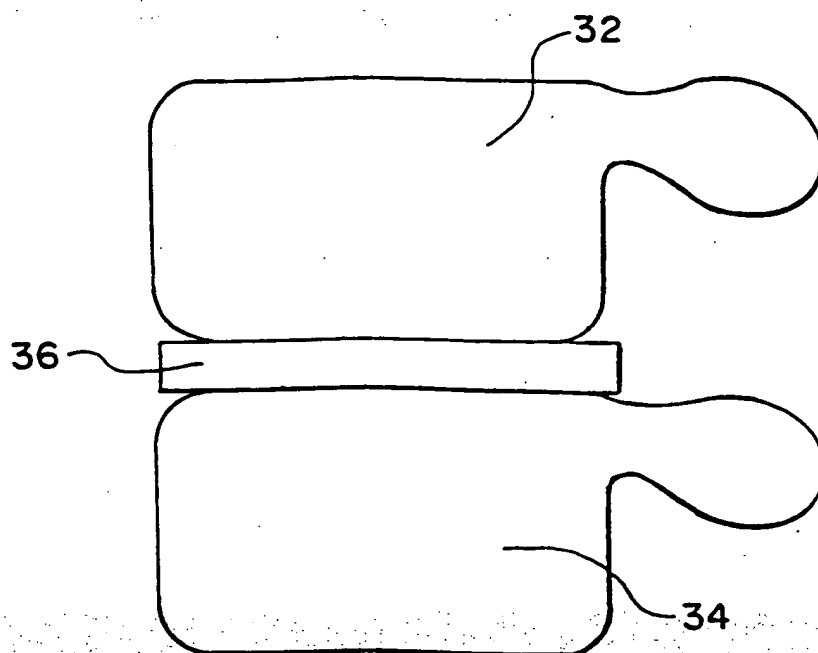
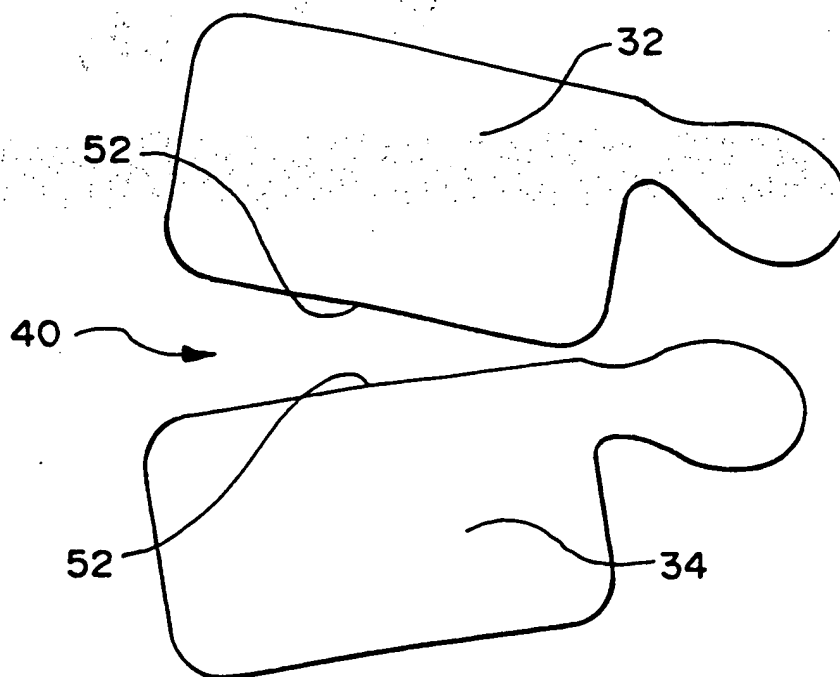
***This Page Blank (uspto)***



**This Page Blank (uspto)**

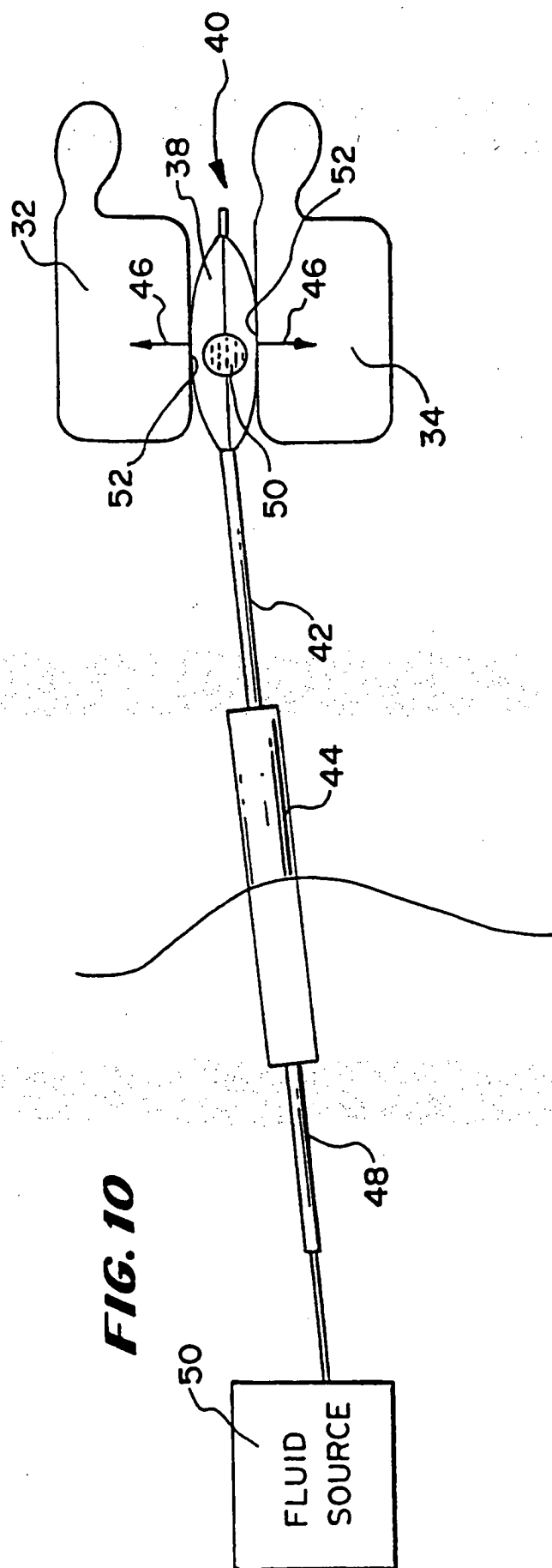
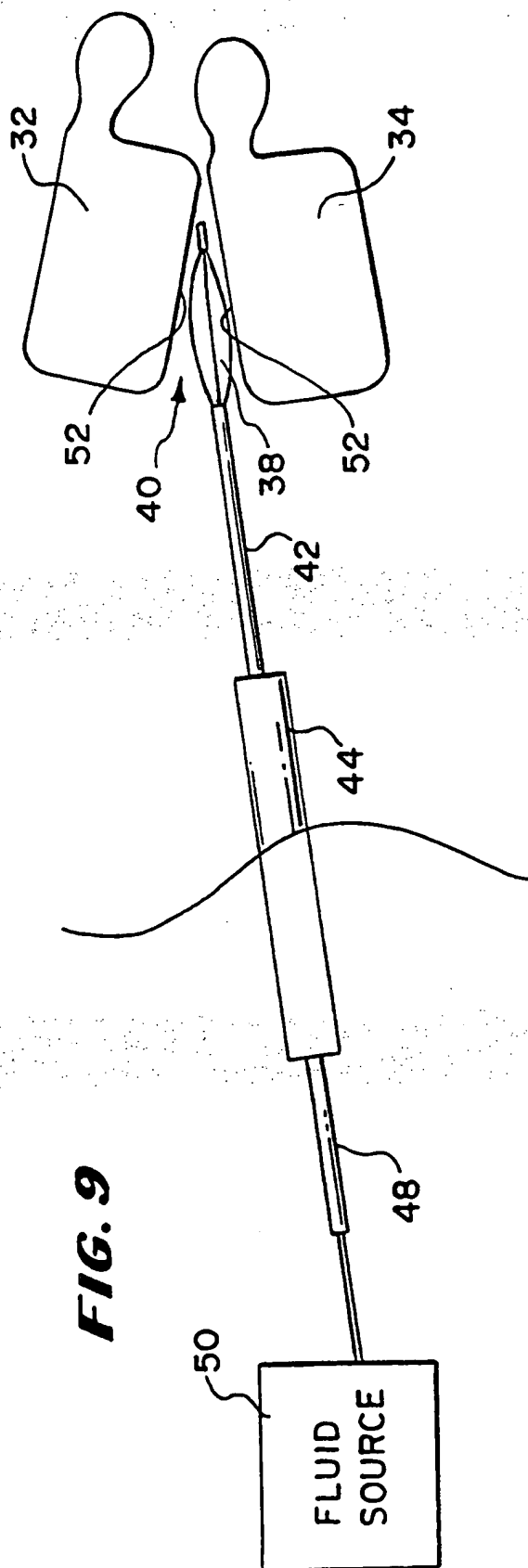


4/6

**FIG. 7****FIG. 8**

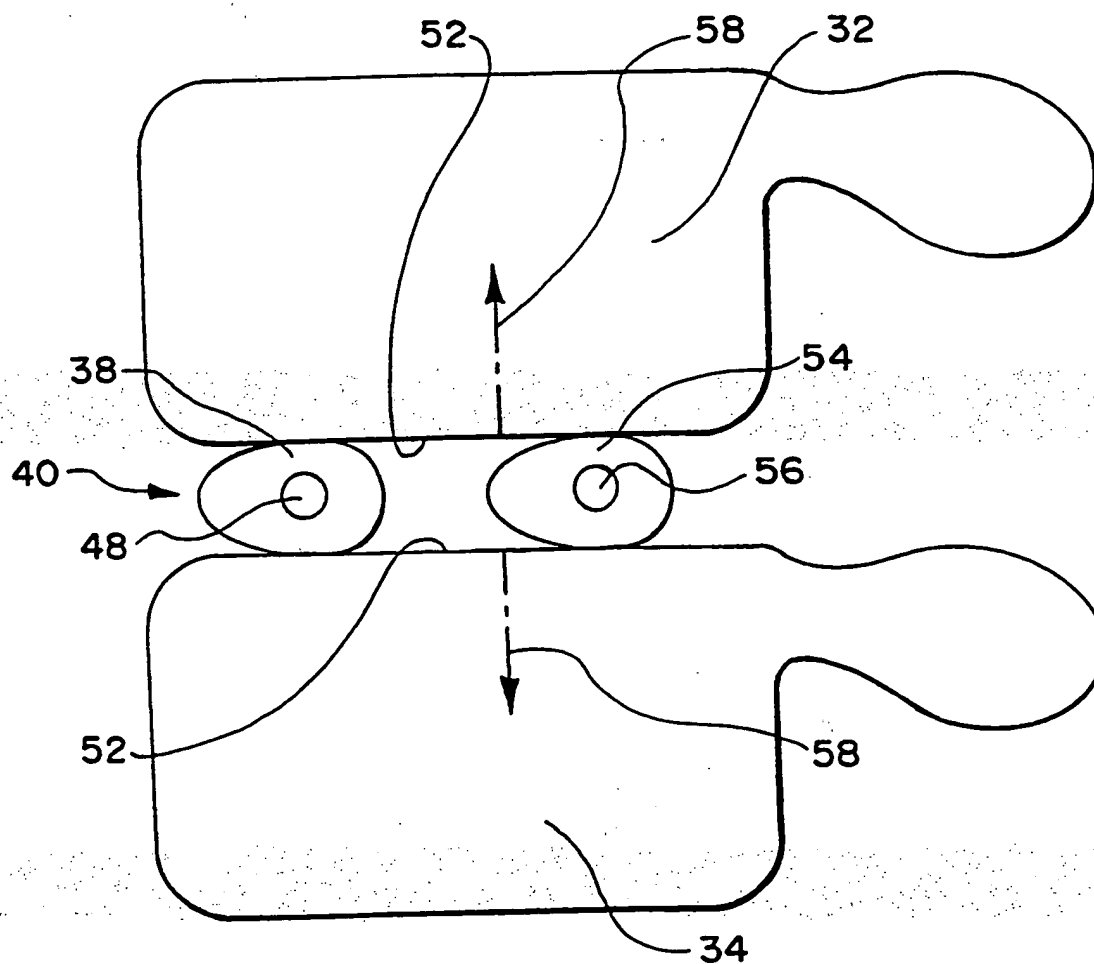
***This Page Blank (uspto)***

5/6



***This Page Blank (uspto)***

6/6

**FIG. 11**

***This Page Blank (uspto)***

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US98/25940

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A61B 17/56

US CL : 606/86

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/60-63, 86, 91-94; 623/7, 8

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	US 5,788,703 A (MITTELMEIER et al.) 04 August 1998, entire document.	1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14
X	US 5,331,975 A (BONUTTI) 26 June 1994, entire document.	1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13
A	US 5,108,404 A (SCHOLTEN et al.) 28 April 1992, entire document.	1-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 JANUARY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 FEB 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington DC 20231

Authorized officer

DAPHNA SHAI

***This Page Blank (uspto)***



**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☒ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**

**This Page Blank (uspto)**